

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1-27 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 1, 18, 20 and 26 have been amended; Claim 19 has been cancelled; and, Claims 28-33 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-18 and 20-33 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,786,995 to Stupeck et al. (hereinafter “Stupeck”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,455,496 to Williams et al. (hereinafter “Williams”). Furthermore, the Examiner rejected Claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stupeck.

In response, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to require “the spindle motor [to be] braked while the actuator arm is retracted” (emphasis added). Applicant believes that Claim 1 (as amended) is patentably distinguishable from Stupeck and Williams because neither Stupeck nor Williams disclose the above-quoted limitation.

Specifically, Stupeck describes an automatic head retract system for a disk drive that moves heads to a landing zone prior to braking a spindle motor (see, e.g., Col. 4, lines 37-46; Col. 6, lines 10-19; and, Col. 7, lines 3-8). Applicant believes that Williams also fails to disclose the above-quoted limitation.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from both Stupeck and Williams. For at least the same reasons, Applicant also submits that all claims that depend from Claim 1 are patentably distinguishable from both Stupeck and Williams.

Claims 18 and 26 include limitations somewhat similar to the above-quoted limitation of Claim 1. Accordingly, at least because of reasons similar to those provided with respect to Claim 1, Applicant submits that Claims 18 and 26 (and the claims that depend therefrom) are patentably distinguishable from Stupeck and Williams.

II. New Claims 28-33

Claim 28 includes the limitations of original Claims 1 and 6 (but not original Claim 2). Applicant believes that Claim 28 is patentably distinguishable from Stupeck and Williams because neither Stupeck or Williams disclose a “feedback circuit [that] comprises comparison circuitry for comparing said output voltage of said DC-to-DC converter to a predefined target voltage.” If the Examiner believes otherwise, then the Examiner is requested to point to specific language in Stupeck or Williams disclosing the above-quoted limitation.

Claims 30 and 32 include limitations that are somewhat similar to the above-quoted limitation of Claim 28. Claim 33 includes a limitation somewhat similar to the above-quoted limitation of Claim 1. Claims 29 and 31 depend from Claims 28 and 30, respectively, and are believed to be patentable, at least, for the reasons set forth with respect to Claims 29 and 31.

III. Amendments to Specification and Amendment to Claim 20

The Specification has been amended for clarity and consistency. Specifically, two paragraphs of the application have been amended so that reference numeral 50 is used to identify the landing zone. No new matter has been added.

Since the limitation of Claim 19 was incorporated into Claim 18, Claim 20 was amended to depend from Claim 18 instead of Claim 19.

IV. Additional Claim Fees

In determining whether additional claim fees are due, reference is made to the Fee Calculation Table (below).

Fee Calculation Table

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Additional Fee
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	32	Minus	27	= 5	x \$18 =	\$ 90.00
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	7	Minus	3	= 4	x \$86 =	\$ 344.00

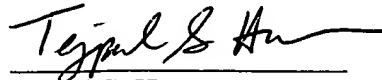
As set forth in the Fee Calculation Table (above), Applicant previously paid claim fees for twenty-seven (27) total claims and for three (3) independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant believes additional claim fees in the amount of \$434.00 are due for the presentation of five (5) total claims in excess of twenty-seven (27) and for the presentation of four (4) independent claims in excess of three (3). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for the additional claim fees, along with any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

V. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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